

Poverty

10.6 Planning Commission, as the Government's nodal agency, estimates the incidence of poverty at the national and state levels, on the basis of large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey (NSS) Organisation approximately every five years. The provisional data of the latest NSS 61st Round for the year 2004-05 indicate that, the poverty ratio at the national level was 27.8 per cent if the Uniform Recall Period (URP, in which the consumer expenditure data for all the items are collected from a 30-day recall

period) is used, and about 22 per cent if the Mixed Recall Period (MRP, in which the consumer expenditure data for five non-food items, namely, clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses, are collected from a 365-day recall period, and the consumption data for the remaining items are collected from a 30-day recall period) is used. The corresponding URP-based poverty estimate for 1993-94 was 36.0 per cent. The MRP-based poverty estimate of about 22 per cent in 2004-05 is roughly but not strictly comparable with the poverty estimates of 26.1 per cent in 1999-2000.